

Fear: Enemy or Friend?

Sunday, September 13, 2026

KEY PASSAGES

Luke 8:36-39 (NIV)

Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

FIVE KEY POINTS

- 1 He spent the week trying to work out the pigs and got nowhere.** He went looking for a cultural explanation and none of it held up. Some questions about why God allows what he allows do not get answered, and going to him in relationship first goes better than demanding one.
- 2 Fear itself is not the enemy.** Scripture uses the word both ways. Adam hid in the garden because he was afraid, and the midwives in Exodus feared God more than they feared Pharaoh and let the boys live. One kind pushes you away from God. The other pulls you toward him.
- 3 Exodus 20 puts both fears in a single verse.** Moses tells the people not to be afraid, because God has come to test them so that the fear of God will be with them to keep them from sinning. He read it out, said "what?", and read it again, which is about where most of us land.
- 4 1 John 4 was the passage that opened it up.** Perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. If you believe God is for you and wants good for you, there is nothing waiting to punish you, and what is left is awe at how much bigger he is than you.
- 5 The healed man asked to follow Jesus and was told to stay.** Staying was the harder assignment. He had to speak truth to the same neighbours who had just asked Jesus to leave, and that is usually the call for the rest of us too, right where we already are.

STORIES & ILLUSTRATIONS

Cutting off Reverend Rollwage on the road. He was driving last week, cut someone off, and it turned out to be Reverend Rollwage. They have not talked about it yet. He said the man looked startled and maybe a little angry. The point was that nobody is anonymous on PEI, and the towns Jesus walked through were smaller still.

Fear is a liar, and the shirt in his closet. He quoted the song, then admitted he owns one of the faith over fear shirts. He was not saying either one is bad. Both carry the idea that all fear is the enemy, and the Psalms and Proverbs both start wisdom at the fear of the Lord.

The servant who buried the bag of gold. In Matthew 25 the man who did nothing explains himself by saying he knew the master was a hard man, so he was afraid. His picture of the master was wrong, and the wrong picture is what made him bury the gold instead of putting it to work.

[Listen to the sermon again on Spotify](#) · [Re-watch the sermon on YouTube](#)

902-894-4721 · info@charlottetowncrc.org · charlottetowncrc.org

Created by Levi Ewald